

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00916 081140Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 SP-02
INR-10 INRE-00 PM-05 PA-01 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
/070 W

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O 081110Z MAY 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7239
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL DURBAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 916

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: WESTERN FIVE APPROACH TO SOUTH AFRICANS

REF: USUN 1835,

1. AT CAPE TOWN FIVE MEETING THIS MORNING (MAY 8) ON REFTEL
TALKING POINTS, RESERVATIONS AROSE. THE FRENCH REP (CROS)
AND GERMAN AMBASSADOR IN PARTICULAR QUESTIONED THE DESIRABILITY
OF MAKING THE DEMARCHE SINCE ALL FIVE GOVERNMENTS INDIVIDUALLY
HAD ALREADY EXPRESSED TO THE SAG DISMAY OVER THE ANGOLA RAID.
THEY, AS WELL AS THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR AND THE CANADIAN REP
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(HALPIN), FELT ALL WE COULD EXPECT FROM THE EXERCISE WAS
(A) A STRONG SAG RETORT THAT THERE HAD BEEN PROVOCATION
WHICH COULD NOT BE IGNORED AND (B) QUESTIONING ABOUT WHAT
THE FIVE HAD DONE TO RESTRAIN SWAPO. THEY AGREED, HOWEVER,
WHEN IT WAS SUGGESTED THERE WERE IMPORTANT POINTS IN THE
DEMARCHE WHICH SHOULD BE MADE, PARTICULARLY THAT THE POTENTIAL
POLITICAL LOSSES OUTWEIGH THE POSSIBLE TEMPORARY MILITARY

GAINS. THE UPSHOT WAS AGREEMENT TO PROPOSE TO THE CONTACT GROUP AND CAPITALS A MODIFICATION OF THE TALKINGPOINTS AS FOLLOWS:

A. OUR GOVERNMENTS HAVE ALREADY MADE CLEAR TO YOU THE DISMAY WITH WHICH WE LEARNED OF SOUTH AFRICA'S RAID INTO ANGOLA. THAT ACTION HAS SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZED THE PROSPECT FOR GAINING SWAPO'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL, AND THIS FACT WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY INTERVENTIONS MADE DURING THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE. NO MATTER WHAT SHORT-TERM MILITARY ADVANTAGE THIS MAY HAVE GAINED FOR YOU, THE POTENTIAL POLITICAL LOSSES ARE INCALCULABLE.

B. IT IS WITH THESE CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND THAT THE FIVE VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED MAY 6 BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THIS RESOLUTION REFLECTED OUR VIEW THAT A REPETITION OF THIS ATTACK OR OTHER PREJUDICIAL ACTIONS WOULD CREATE A SITUATION WITH GRAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR SOUTH AFRICA AND THE FUTURE OF NAMIBIA.

C. THE QUESTION IS WHERE WE GO FROM HERE. YOUR ACTION HAS SERIOUSLY COMPROMISED OUR EFFORTS. THE FIVE GOVERNMENTS WILL CONTINUE OUR ENDEAVORS TO GAIN FULL APPROVAL FOR OUR PROPOSAL, THOUGH THIS HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT.

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D. WE HAVE MADE CLEAR IN OUR PUBLIC STATEMENTS THAT WE BELIEVE YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL WAS SINCERE AND GENUINE. WORKING ON THE BASIS OF THIS BELIEF, WE AGAIN STRESS THE NEED FOR SOUTH AFRICA TO UNDERTAKE NO ACTION INCOMPATIBLE WITH THAT PROPOSAL AND, IN FACT, TO TAKE POSITIVE STEPS TO HELP CREATE A CLIMATE OF TRUST. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL LEAD TO THE GENERAL CONCLUSION THAT SOUTH AFRICA, DESPITE ITS ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL, IN FACT SEEKS ITS FAILURE.

2. WE AND THE BRITISH ALSO WERE UNABLE TO DOCUMENT FROM OUR FILES HERE THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF REFTEL TALKING POINTS. IF IT IS DETERMINED THAT THE CAPE TOWN FIVE SHOULD GO AHEAD WITH THE TALKING POINTS AS THEY APPEAR IN REFTEL, SUGGEST THE FIRST SENTENCE OF PARA 1 BE REVISED TO READ "...WE HAVE ASSUMED THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD DO NOTHING..." AND THE SECOND SENTENCE BEGIN "IT WILL HAVE BEEN CLEAR TO YOU..." NELSON

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